

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /082 W  
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R 311609Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3920  
INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 0633

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, DA  
SUBJECT: STRIKE STOPS MAJOR DANISH NEWSPAPER AT BEGINNING  
OF ELECTION PERIOD

SUMMARY: BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, DENMARK'S OLDEST AND  
LARGEST NEWSPAPER, WAS UNABLE TO PUBLISH A FULL EDITION  
SATURDAY (JANUARY 29) BECAUSE OF A LABOR DISPUTE. AFTER  
FAILURE OF TYPOGRAPHERS TO APPEAR FOR WORK ON SUNDAY  
BECAUSE OF RESISTANCE TO MODERNIZATION MEASURES IMPOSED  
BY MANAGEMENT, THE NEWSPAPER CLOSED DOWN AND SENT HOME  
ITS TECHNICAL PERSONNEL, NUMBERING ABOUT 1,000. SPECU-  
LATION IS THAT THE DISPUTE CAUSED BY THE RESISTANCE OF  
THE TYPOGRAPHERS WILL LAST FAIRLY LONG, THUS LIMITING  
EXPRESSION OF CONSERVATIVE OPINION IN DENMARK DURING  
THE PERIOD PRECEDING NATIONAL ELECTIONS FEBRUARY 15.  
END SUMMARY.

1. DISSATISFACTION OF TYPOGRAPHERS WITH MEASURES  
CONTEMPLATED AND IN PART IMPOSED BY VARIOUS PUBLISHERS  
IN DENMARK HAVE CAUSED IN RECENT WEEKS SOME IRREGULAR-  
ITIES IN THE PUBLICATION OF DANISH NEWSPAPERS. THE  
BLOWUP CAME OVER THE WEEKEND WHEN THE RESISTANCE OF  
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TYPOGRAPHERS TO BERLINGSKE TIDENDE'S MANAGEMENT'S  
DETERMINATION TO INSTALL NEW WORKING SCHEDULES AND USE  
ADVERTISING PREPARED OUTSIDE BY NON-ORGANIZED WORKERS  
SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED PUBLICATION OF THE SATURDAY AND  
SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS. THE MANAGEMENT RATIONALIZATION  
DECISIONS IMPLY DISMISSAL OF SOME 300 WORKERS AND  
WAGE REDUCTIONS. THE NEWSPAPER MANAGEMENT CHARGED

WORKERS HAD SO SERIOUSLY INTERFERED WITH THE DIRECTION OF THE NEWSPAPER THAT PUBLICATION COULD NOT CONTINUE AND DECIDED TO CLOSE DOWN. MORE THAN A THOUSAND TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES WERE SENT HOME.

2. THE MATTER WILL NOW GO TO THE LABOR COURT WHERE A DECISION WILL BE MADE REGARDING THE LEGALITY OF BERLINSKE MANAGEMENT'S DECISION TO DISMISS THE WORKERS. SOME EXISTING LOCAL COLLECTIVE CONTRACTS HAD ALREADY BEEN TERMINATED AND THE QUESTION TO THE COURT WILL BE WHETHER OR NOT THE WORK INTERRUPTIONS, WHICH ARE NOT PERMITTED UNDER EXISTING AGREEMENTS, JUSTIFY CLOSING DOWN THE NEWSPAPER.

3. THE DISPUTE WITH THE TYPOGRAPHERS HAS BROUGHT ABOUT THE PUBLICATION OF THE EARNINGS AND WORKING CONDITIONS ENJOYED BY THE TYPOGRAPHERS AT BERLINSKE (MUCH ABOVE AVERAGE IN THE COUNTRY) AND REVEALED THAT MORE THAN FOUR TIMES AS MANY TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES ARE ENGAGED THERE AS AT ITS NEAREST COMPETITOR, POLITIKKEN, WHICH HAS APPROXIMATELY THE SAME CIRCULATION (121,000 VS. 126,000). BERLINGSKE CLAIMS THAT ITS FINANCIAL SITUATION DEMANDS THE INTRODUCTION OF THE RATIONALIZATION MEASURES IT HAS PROPOSED WHILE THE WORKERS HAVE DECLARED THEIR INTENTION OF DEFENDING THE JOBS AND WORKING CONDITIONS THEY HAVE WON OVER THE YEARS. THE DISPUTE IS THE FIRST REAL CONFRONTATION IN DENMARK IN THIS AREA IN SOME YEARS AND ITS RESOLUTION WILL BE A DECISIVE FACTOR IN THE UNCLASSIFIED

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FUTURE OF THE PUBLISHING INDUSTRY. WHATEVER THE LABOR COURT DECIDES, MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT THE DISPUTE WILL PROBABLY LAST SEVERAL WEEKS, THUS DEPRIVING DANISH VOTERS OF AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF CONSERVATIVE OPINION DURING THE NATIONAL ELECTION PERIOD.

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** STRIKE STOPS MAJOR DANISH NEWSPAPER AT BEGINNING OF ELECTION PERIOD SUMMARY: BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, DENMARK'S OLDEST AND  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PINT, DA, BERLINGSKE TIDENDE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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